



# USAID | PHILIPPINES

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills



CREATIVE ASSOCIATES

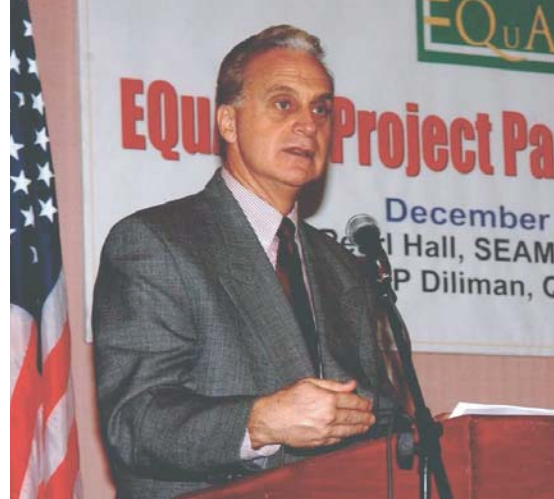
# The Challenge

Though Mindanao is rich in natural resources and scenic beauty, the area has been historically disadvantaged relative to the rest of the Philippines, obtaining fewer social and economic benefits and suffering disruptions from armed conflict. As a result, social and economic indicators in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Regions IX and XII are the lowest in the country. Nearly 63 percent of the people live at the poverty level, nearly double the national rate. About 21 percent of the barangays in the ARMM are without schools. Only four students out of 10

complete elementary school, and nearly 30 percent of the population above 10 years of age are illiterate. The high drop-out rates and the correspondingly high illiteracy rate—along with conflict and the lack of job-creating investment in the region—have contributed to high unemployment. This leaves youth vulnerable to recruitment by criminal elements and violent secessionist groups. Access to quality basic education can provide a solid foundation for economic growth and help the people of the ARMM and conflict-affected areas break out of the cycle of poverty and alienation.



COVER PHOTO: ELSA



USAID/PHILIPPINES

## A Unique Approach: Education Alliances with the Private Sector

To help address these challenges, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Philippines has launched a new education program to improve access to quality education and livelihood skills in areas affected by conflict and poverty, particularly in Mindanao. The principal vehicle for implementing this new program is the **Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) Project**.

To implement EQuALLS, USAID is partnering with the Philippine Department of Education (DepEd), DepEd-ARMM, the U.S. Peace Corps, the Asia America Initiative, Creative Associates International, Inc., and six private sector alliances led by the following organizations: the International Youth Foundation; Save the Children-Philippines; the Knowledge Channel Foundation; Synergeia Foundation; Real World Productions; and the Brother's Brother Foundation.

These private sector alliances are expected to double the resources available for the EQuALLS program. By joining with such private sector groups—corporations, foundations, and NGOs—the U.S. Government pools not only their financial resources, but their creativity, energy, and expertise as well.

USAID assistance is focused on achieving four results:

- Increased community-based formal and nonformal learning opportunities, especially in areas without schools or in conflict-affected areas;
- Improved instructional capacity in reading, English, math, and science;
- Reintegration of out-of-school youth (OSY) into a peaceful, productive economy; and
- Policy reform and strengthened capacity to implement this at both the national and local levels.





CREATIVE ASSOCIATES

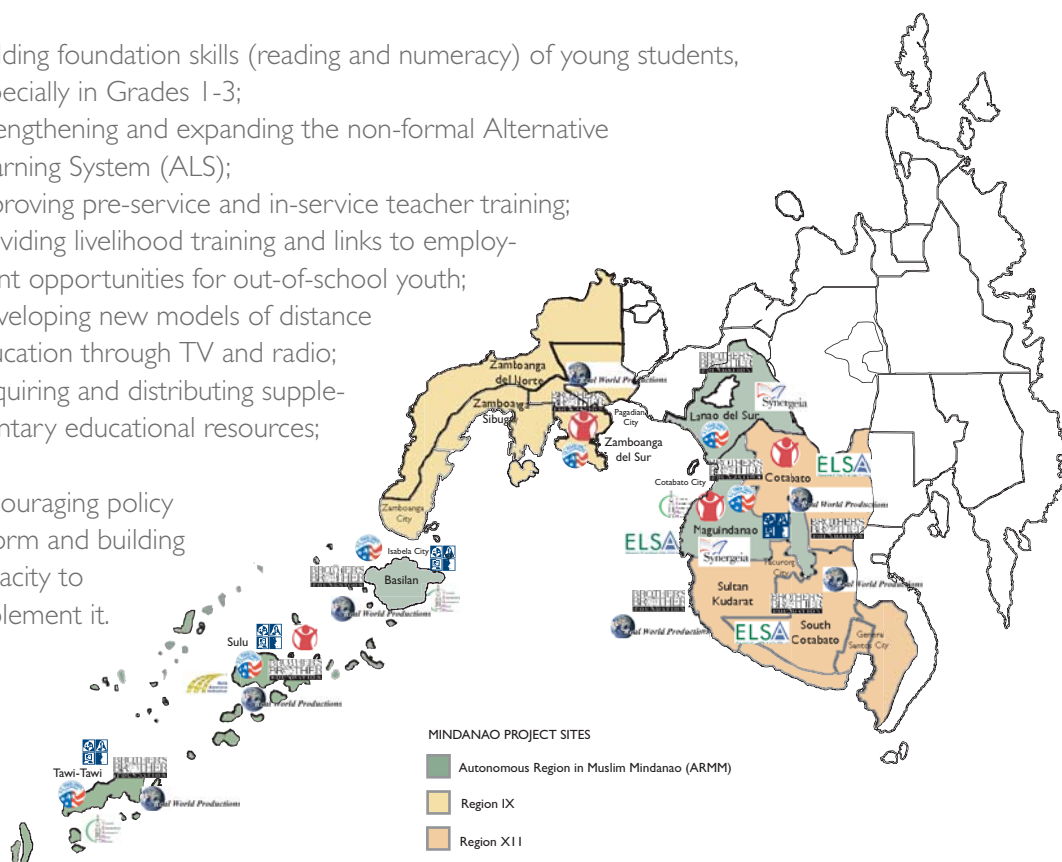


# The EQuALLS Project



Launched in 2004, EQuALLS is a five-year, \$30.1 million initiative that combines the efforts of USAID partners from government, civil society, and the corporate sector. In coordination with DepEd and DepEd-ARMM, EQuALLS has set the following goals:

- Building foundation skills (reading and numeracy) of young students, especially in Grades 1-3;
- Strengthening and expanding the non-formal Alternative Learning System (ALS);
- Improving pre-service and in-service teacher training;
- Providing livelihood training and links to employment opportunities for out-of-school youth;
- Developing new models of distance education through TV and radio;
- Acquiring and distributing supplementary educational resources; and
- Encouraging policy reform and building capacity to implement it.





GEM-2

## Creative Associates International Inc.

**C**reative Associates International Inc. is USAID's institutional contractor for the EQuALLS Project. Creative Associates helps coordinate the activities of the different private sector alliances in order to maximize their collective impact and to ensure collaboration in the field. Creative Associates also implements activities to complement the efforts of the private sector alliances. To improve educational quality, Creative Associates is strengthening the capacity of educators who teach English, math, science, and reading in elementary schools, in non-formal education programs for out-of-school youth, and in madaris. It is enhancing pre- and in-service teacher

training and helping teachers contextualize learning materials to make them more appropriate for children living in the ARMM and other conflict-affected areas. To improve educational access and reduce drop-out rates, Creative Associates is promoting in-school/out-of-school flexible learning options, providing nonformal education for out-of-school youth through a strengthened Alternative Learning System (ALS), and strengthening the capacity of community learning centers and madaris to provide basic education. It is also organizing outreach activities and social mobilization to generate community support for education.

CREATIVE ASSOCIATES





ELSA/INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION



## Education and Livelihood Skills Alliance (ELSA)

**E**LSA is an alliance of international and Philippine NGOs, foundations, and education institutions, including the International Youth Foundation, the Ayala Foundation, the Consuelo Foundation, Petron Foundation, Philippines Business for Social Progress, and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization-Regional Center for Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO-INNOTECH). This alliance seeks to create and expand school- and community-based learning and employment opportunities. To lower the high drop-out rate and raise school participation and completion rates, ELSA is upgrading school infrastructure, mobilizing Parent Teacher Community Associations (PTCAs), strengthening Alternative Learning Systems, and providing opportunities for positive

youth leadership engagement. Innovative information and communications technology (ICT) and multimedia educational programs are used to address education quality and access in targeted regions. Livelihood training and employment promotion activities support the reintegration of out-of-school youth into the peaceful economy. ELSA's geographic targets include municipalities in the ARMM and neighboring conflict-affected regions.

CREATIVE ASSOCIATES







SAVE THE CHILDREN



## Assistance for the Comprehensive Educational Development of Mindanao (ASCEND Mindanao)

**A**SCEND Mindanao is under the leadership of Save the Children, in partnership with Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), the Mindanao Business Council, and the Department of Education. To improve access to, and quality of, elementary education in Mindanao, ASCEND assists public elementary schools and private madaris to improve instruction in science, math, and English. It empowers school administrators and ustadz from selected

madaris to mobilize and manage resources necessary for a successful learning environment. ASCEND Mindanao is also strengthening Alternative Learning Systems and establishing a skills training and industry immersion program to improve the opportunity for out-of-school youth to find employment. ASCEND focuses on the municipalities of Talipao, Sulu; Datu Piang, Maguindanao; Midsayap, North Cotabato; and Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur.

CREATIVE ASSOCIATES





KNOWLEDGE CHANNEL



## Television Education for the Advancement of Muslim Mindanao (TEAM Mindanao)

**T** EAM Mindanao is under the leadership of the Knowledge Channel, the country's only cable television network exclusively devoted to education. TEAM Mindanao is expanding learning opportunities by providing educational TV to public schools in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, and Basilan. The project is also providing teacher training modules via television to upgrade capacities for

teaching science, math, and English. To improve workforce quality and support the reintegration of out-of-school youth, TEAM Mindanao is developing a ten-part video series on livelihood and business development skills. During the second year of the project, TEAM Mindanao will develop a series on Peace Education.

KNOWLEDGE CHANNEL







## Dagyawang Igpaw Sa Wastong Agkataw (DIWA)

**T**he Synergeia Foundation has joined with the Department of Education, local government units, and cultural institutions like the National Museum and Museo Pambata to improve the reading and math skills of students in Grades 1 to 3 in Marawi City, Upi, Barira, and Datu Paglas. ***Dagyawang Igpaw sa Wastong Agkataw*** (a combination of words from four Philippine languages approximately translating to “Cooperative Leap for Proper Intelligence”)

also aims to increase community support for education by training parents to be more active participants in their children’s schooling. DIWA’s participatory, community-based approach seeks to reinvent and strengthen local school boards by training board members and local government officials in resource mobilization and management to provide a better future for the children of their communities.



CREATIVE ASSOCIATES



ELSA



ELSA



*Real World Productions*

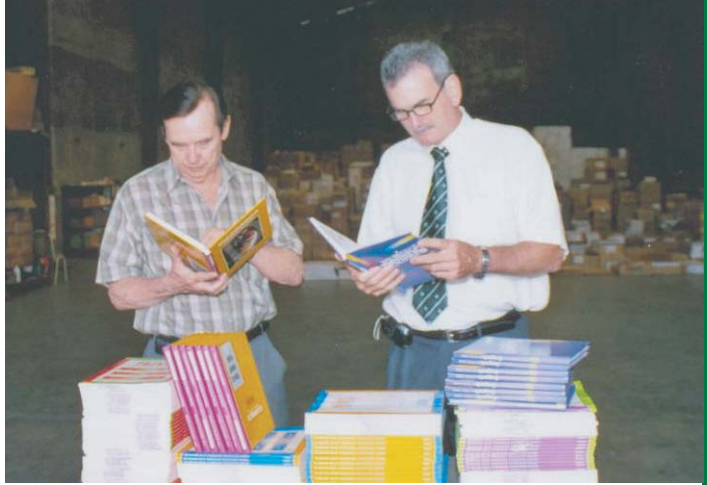
## Improving English Language Teaching and Learning in Mindanao (IELTLM)

**R**eal World Productions (RWP) is a U.S.-based organization that produces and distributes multi-media educational programs supported by training. Under EQuALLS, RWP is leading the Real World Alliance's project, Improving English Language Teaching and Learning in Mindanao, to enhance English proficiency and English teaching skills in formal and nonformal education. The project provides recorded audio and integrated books supplemented by locally developed lesson

plans for elementary Grades 5 and 6, and for the first two years of high school. The Real World Alliance is training teachers on how to use audio to enrich English language teaching in both formal and nonformal settings. Radio station staff are also trained to adapt these materials for broadcasts to audiences in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao who wish to improve their English language skills.

REAL WORLD PRODUCTIONS





BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION



## Books Across the Sea (BATS) Program

Under the EQuALLS project, the U.S.-based Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF) and the Rotary Club of Makati (RCM) aim to improve the quality of education by increasing the availability of learning materials for students and out-of-school youth in the ARMM and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. Providing 1.8 million books and materials donated by U.S. publishers over the three-year life of the project, the

Books Across the Sea Program works with the Department of Education, DepEd-ARMM, local Rotary Clubs, local government units, and other EQuALLS partners to provide supplementary educational materials in English, math, and science to students, as well as professional development texts for teachers.

BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION







U.S. PEACE CORPS



## Tudló Mindanao

**T***udló Mindanao* ("Teach Mindanao") is a United States Peace Corps/Philippines teacher-training project for Muslim Mindanao. Implemented in partnership with DepEd and DepEd-ARMM, its primary purpose is to train elementary and high school teachers of English and Information Communication Technology. Begun in October 2003, and now incorporated into the EQuALLS project, *Tudló Mindanao* has provided a venue for Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and Mindanao teacher trainers to collabo-

rate in designing teacher training programs and materials for content-based instruction (including math, science, and environmental education) and English language education. It has also introduced and promoted the multi-disciplinary use of ICT. These programs are echoed to a wider number of teachers in a series of teacher training workshops conducted in the ARMM and in Regions IX and XII.

U.S. PEACE CORPS





ELSA



## Development for Peace in Sulu (DPIS)

**T**he Asia America Initiative (AAI), a U.S. nonprofit organization dedicated to conflict resolution, is implementing the Development for Peace in Sulu project. DPIS aims to strengthen civil society in the Sulu Archipelago through social development and community engagement. The education component of DPIS improves school facilities in model schools by providing desks, books, and computers; and it develops programs to teach vocational and marketing skills to local elementary and high

school students. DPIS is also supporting advanced training for teachers and administrators and entrepreneurial training for both educators and students. Through partnerships with private foundations, DPIS is providing college scholarships to exemplary high school and university students who envision a career in teaching but cannot afford college tuition. DPIS has also joined with U.S. and Philippine NGOs and local colleges to stimulate the use of distance education and the internet in Sulu.

MINDANEWS





GEM-2 EASE-MGP



## USAID Growth with Equity in Mindanao 2 (GEM-2) Project

**T**he USAID GEM-2 Project implements three education initiatives in the ARMM and the neighboring conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. The Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program provides internet access, computers, and LAN, printer, and computer supplies to secondary schools in the ARMM and Conflict-Affected Areas of Mindanao (CAAM). To raise public consciousness of educational issues, the Education Awareness Support Effort and Matching Grants Program (EASE-MGP) mobilizes communities and businesses to play an active role in

analyzing local school needs and raising funds to provide resources to improve education for their children. In addition, GEM-2 supports research to identify the skills needed by private companies in Mindanao so that youth can be trained for real jobs. GEM-2 also works with DepEd-ARMM to enhance education planning, analysis, and budgeting capabilities to develop more effective finance and management systems. Although not formally a part of the EQuALLS Project, the education activities of the GEM-2 Program are closely coordinated with EQuALLS.

GEM-2/CLIC





## EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCESS FOR LEARNING AND LIVELIHOOD SKILLS

### LEAD ORGANIZATIONS



### ALLIANCE PARTNERS



Ayala Foundation



SEAMEO Innotech



Consuelo Foundation



Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities, Inc. - Women in Enterprise Development



Muslim Upliftment Foundation of Tawi Tawi



Bangasmoro Youth Ranao Center for Peace and Development



Federation of United Mindanawan Bangsamoro Women Multipurpose Cooperative



Nagdilaab Foundation



Christian Children's Fund-Basilan



Philippine Business for Social Progress



Petron Foundation



Nokia



Globe Telecom



Department of Education ARMM



Local Government of Upi



Local Government of Marawi



University of Notre Dame of Marbel



Project Josie



Eskwelahan sang Katawhan



National Museum



Naga City Government



Makati Rotary Club



Allied Bank



Philippine Department of Education



Philippine Cable TV Association



ABS-CBN



National Broadcasting Network



SkyCable & Central CATV



Eskwela ng Bayan



Pacific Resources for Education and Learning



Mindanao Business Council



Ateneo de Zamboanga



[www.equalls.org](http://www.equalls.org)

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[www.caii.com](http://www.caii.com)

ELSA Secretariat  
Tel : (02) 892-4141  
Fax: (02) 813-4487  
[www.iyfnet.org](http://www.iyfnet.org)

Save the Children (ASCEND Mindanao)  
Tel : (02) 852-5408  
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[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)

Knowledge Channel (TEAM Mindanao)  
Tel : (064) 421-5710  
Fax: (064) 421-1756  
[www.knowledgechannel.com.ph](http://www.knowledgechannel.com.ph)

Synergeia Foundation (DIWA)  
Tel : (02) 898-2913  
Fax: (02) 898-2617  
[www.synergeia.org.ph](http://www.synergeia.org.ph)

Real World Productions (IELTLM)  
Tel : (0921) 556-6007  
[www.realworldenglish.com](http://www.realworldenglish.com)

Brother's Brother Foundation (BATS)  
c/o Rotary Club of Makati  
Tel : (02) 899-0520  
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[www.brothersbrother.org](http://www.brothersbrother.org)

Asia America Initiative (DPIS)  
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[www.asiaamerica.org](http://www.asiaamerica.org)

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